CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



By-the-wind Sailor

Velella velella

Velella is not a jellyfish and not even really an animal in the singular sense: it is a floating colony of specialised polyps, some for feeding, some for reproduction, some for stinging, all hanging …

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Porpitidae
Habitat: Open ocean surface (pelagic zone)
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: Approximately 1 month
Weight: Less than 1 gram
Scientific name: Velella velella

Did you know?

- Mass strandings of By-the-wind Sailors can turn entire stretches of beach bright blue, sometimes covering miles of coastline after strong winds.
- Its sting is harmless to humans, unlike its relative the Portuguese man o' war, though it is wise not to touch your eyes afterwards. It is hunted by …

What I learned

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